



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Captain Kim Seung-young  
Executive Vice President of Flight Operations  
Asiana Airlines  
#94-1 Gonghang-Dong  
Gangseo-Gu, Seoul  
157-240, Korea

Dear Captain Kim:

Thank you for your November 28, 2013, letter regarding your concerns about the upcoming investigative hearing on the July 6, 2013, accident involving Asiana Airlines flight 214. As the designated Hearing Officer for the upcoming National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigative hearing on this accident, I am responsible for the logistical arrangements for the hearing and, as a result, Chairman Hersman has asked me to respond directly to you. In your letter, you note a concern about the "limited" time provided for the review of factual material before the hearing. As a technical advisor to KARAIB, Asiana representatives have participated in each investigative group and all group activities. The group members signed off on all field notes and have received copies of all attachments that were developed throughout the course of the investigation to date. The group chairman factual reports that we made available for your review contain little additional factual information and the changes merely reflect reformatting of materials for placement in our docket. NTSB staff did not receive any requests for extension of the timeframe allotted for review of these documents.

Of note, we did receive comments from Asiana group members on the draft factual reports within the allotted time (including the Operations and Human Performance reports), and we appreciate the reviews. In addition, Asiana will have the opportunity to provide additional comments on any exhibit at the prehearing conference this week.

Regarding the exhibit list, the investigators have been compiling the list of exhibits for the last several weeks, with a targeted due date of November 22. As the hearing officer, I distributed to the parties a list on November 25 and an update on November 27. The list will not be totally finalized until the prehearing conference this week; changes can still be made at that time to accommodate the parties and enable the NTSB to ensure that everyone's needs are met during the hearing. I also note that the majority of exhibit documents were provided by Asiana and, thus, Asiana's ability to provide comments on them at the pre-hearing conference or question other parties' witnesses at the investigative hearing should not be noticeably affected.

On November 26, NTSB staff reviewed the issues to be discussed by each panel and determined that the Asiana training manager, Captain Yoo Byung-geoun, would be able to address the proposed topics. Therefore, the witness list was revised to remove Asiana chief pilot, Captain Lee Sung-kil, in order to reduce the burden on Asiana. When staff informed Asiana of

this decision, and during subsequent conversations regarding the investigation and hearing, staff received no comments or concerns about the removal of Captain Lee Sung-kil from the witness list; had they known of your concerns, they would have been happy to work with you to come to a resolution. At this time, we welcome Captain Lee Sung-kil as a witness at the hearing, and we hope that he will be able to participate.

We very much appreciate all the cooperation you have provided throughout the investigation of this tragic accident; your participation is critical to aviation safety. Any other questions or concerns about the prehearing conference or the hearing can be directed to me at 202-314-6371, or [timothy.lebaron@ntsb.gov](mailto:timothy.lebaron@ntsb.gov), or to Mr. Bill English at 202-314-6686, or [bill.english@ntsb.gov](mailto:bill.english@ntsb.gov). If you are unable to reach either myself or Mr. English, you may contact Mr. John DeLisi, Director, Office of Aviation Safety, at 202-314-6344 or [delisij@ntsb.gov](mailto:delisij@ntsb.gov). We are more than capable of quickly answering any of your questions or concerns.

As you requested, we will include your letter, along with this response, in the public docket.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Tim LeBaron.

Tim LeBaron